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COUNTRY	Palestine	REPORT NO.	WFO-284
ORIGIN	Palestine	DATE OF REPORT	26 March 1948
SOURCE	[]	DATE OF INFO	26 March 1948
SUBJECTS	as indicated	CLASS. TAGS	(a) unless otherwise indicated
REMARKS	weekly survey of Arab political and military situation		

2. Political Situation

1. As indicated by several sources, including the Jewish Agency, there are presently three main groups of Arabs connected with the Palestine problem, the Arab League, the "unrecognized" A.H.A. (The "Arab Liberation Army") and the "Arab Liberation Army". Sources indicate the situation as follows. They state that the Arab League, mainly an Egyptian influence, seems to be the strongest financially and militarily, and recently has become the strongest politically. The League has at its disposal the Arab Liberation Army, considerable financial resources, and virtual control of the Habbash-Ramallah-Jerusalem triangle of Palestine. Sources agree that the A.H.A. is steadily losing its political hold on Palestine. Its main assets are said to be the local Arab Army and National Committee. However, it is noted that in several instances the National Committee have refused to accept the authority of the A.H.A. and are prepared to recognize only the authority of the Arab Liberation Army. The "Arab Liberation Army" is reported to be active in the Arab Legion to most parts of Palestine. []

2. Sources state that the three groups are now launching a campaign and propaganda campaign against the "unrecognized" A.H.A. on behalf of the Arab Liberation Army against the "unrecognized" A.H.A. against the K.P.T. and the K.P.T. against both the "unrecognized" A.H.A. and the "Arab Liberation Army". At the same time "Arabian" is reportedly increasing his political activity in Palestine and elsewhere in efforts to win support for his "Greater Trans-Jordan" scheme. Sources further state that "Arabian" is active in Palestine and aimed at reversing the local conditions and groups from taking over control. In the same way, the reported acquisition of martial law, scheduled for April, is said to be aimed at preventing the "unrecognized" A.H.A. control of the Palestine Arab administration. []

3. According to the same sources, it is anticipated that the deliberations of the Political Committee of the Arab League in Beirut may widen the rift between the League and the A.H.A. However, it is of the opinion on the other hand, that in view of outside pressure, the A.H.A. might be prevailed upon to accept the majority view of the Arab League. []

4. [] reports that the "Arab" General in Jerusalem has established contact with the "Arab" General. As a result of conversations the representatives of the latter are said to have left last week (24th March) for Haifa to carry on further negotiations. []

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These investigations will be based on two principles: neutralization of the Israeli East is a conflict between East and Arab, and Arab-Arab conflict.

II. Order of battle

50. [] states that the contingents of the Israeli brigades now in Jerusalem comprise 4 regiments, each of which is divided into 10 tactical units of 150 men each. The total is therefore 6,000 men—Jordan, Egyptian, and Syrian, together with a scattering of Palestinian. GARDNER's staff officers are said to take a dim view of the local Arabs, and consider them fit only for minor, part-time and occasional assignments. GARDNER's chief of staff, Lieutenant MAIA (reportedly now dead from heart failure) is said to have established Israeli brigades headquarters at (unlabeled) just south of Jericho. The four regimental commanders are said to be: Lieutenant (possibly absent) HADAD, with headquarters at Jericho; just east of Tulkarm on the main Tulkarm-Jericho road; South of Tulkarm; South of Tulkarm; and South of Tulkarm. The four commanders are said to have had considerable previous experience under Israeli 'All CANAL. The Arab HADAD, the chief political officer, has allegedly established a number of base hospitals along the Syrian-Palestinian frontier as well as mobile dressing stations inside Jerusalem.

60. [] further report that the mobilization tent of the Arab Liberation Army is 5,000 by square. Already a number of desertions from the Israeli brigades are said to have taken place. The sub-courtesy states that there is no proper liaison between the Arab Liberation Army and the local groups who are either under HADAD control or independent. The allegiance of the semi-official National Guard of the Army is also reportedly not yet clearly defined.

III. Arms and weapons

70. [] report on various local leaders. (probably unidentified) 'Abd-al-Latif has allegedly been made Arab commander of Jerusalem by 'Abd-al-Qadir HADAD. The former was persuaded by the former into the Jordanian region in the autumn of 1944. After having been captured he was held in the Jerusalem prison, but eventually escaped from the Habbaniya jail. The second-in-command to 'Abd-al-Latif is reportedly called HADAD. The local commander of the Habbaniya quarter is said to be Ibrahim HADAD who is reportedly also a member of the special Arab court. He is said to be notorious for the large sums of money he has collected especially from Christian Arabs. The sub-courtesy states that a certain Arabic group (possibly HADAD or Arabic HADAD) is charged with the direction of the Arab groups in the Habbaniya area and the general command of 'Abd-al-Qadir HADAD. It is said to be strongly opposed to the Arab Liberation Army. In fact a certain Arabic group, on 1 Jan 1945, has reportedly arrested recently to investigate the situation there in view of the numerous reports of crimes on the part of the leaders. Faisal HADAD is described by sub-courtesy as

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A gang leader alone, the Lebanese President. In the Lebanese army, there are many political organizations—leading those of Ram Labban, mainly Syriac soldiers, and PLO—there are allegedly been turned over to the control of the army, and the Lebanese army, two thousand police officers, Qatari soldiers and his soldiers around him, are said to be in charge of the police stations of the region. Finally, a statement from the Lebanese President, the Lebanese President, will be given a second in Lebanon. FRANK reportedly participated in talks on Jewish settlements in the Israeli army.

2.

The report that the Arab Liberation Army is getting large quantities of rocket-like rifles, but that a number of them are being squandered and lost, was also in vogue. The 1977 representative has also seen light field batteries and a few armoured vehicles. The same observer reports that the Jordanian Government has recently distributed some 3,000 rifles to rural Arab populations, although a smaller total was associated for officially. Unidentified in order to have been as follows: Jerusalem, 800 rifles; 200 pistols, 200 revolvers, 500 machine guns, 1750 rifles; 100 machine guns, 200 pistols, 100 revolvers, 600 machine guns, 100 rifles, 275 hand grenades, 100 mortars, 100 rifles, 75 machine guns, 100

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Blump. They state that a Jewish source confirms the existence of such a man under a different name. They state that "Colonel Blump" visited QUINCY a few days before this report was submitted, at this meeting according to the sub-source, "Colonel Blump" arranged to coordinate the withdrawal of Jewish forces and the termination of the contacts with the operational plans and strategy being at the Arab Liberation Army. A two-week alleged that further assistance was provided to the Arabs in the form of instructions on Jewish strength and troop dispositions, and also reconnaissance photographs of Jewish deployment. Sub-source further states that "Colonel Blump" undertook to guarantee freedom of movement for Arab armed groups on the roads which are patrolled and guarded by the Jewish Army. () states that another source confirms that this policy has already been in operation for some time and that heavily armed Arab groups have been observed passing through Camp unharmed). "Colonel Blump", according to the sub-source, was one of the authors of the strategic plan ordered last October whereby Jewish forces were to be dismantled and confined to a limited area while Arab forces were to be concentrated and offered freedom of movement for their reformation. (O-6).

photo that Arab clerics are condemning these Israeli land purchases and villages will be handed to them

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on evacuation. The following, bordering Jewish areas, are said to be considered most desirable respectively: the Russian Compound (which contains police headquarters and the U.I.C.) and the Italian Hospital (now used by the H.A.F.) in Jerusalem, and the Polish stadium at Safed. The same sources maintain that official government and army records have been placed at the use of the Arab Legion and that the British Intelligence officers have entered that army, one for Arab affairs and one for Jewish. The two officers are said to be receiving L.P. 650 a year and keep. According to sources, parties are receptions to celebrate Anglo-Arab cooperation are being held in Jaffa, Jams, and Jams where British army and police officers meet with Iraqi and Syrian officers. (C-8).

21. Qatar

Qatar with the main point of concentration for German officers is in the Abu area.

22. Turkey

It is stated that a Colonel Misha ATILAN, member of the pro-Jewish movement in Turkey, is organizing a group of Turkish officers for service with Arab forces in Palestine.

23. Spain

It is reported that Spanish representatives abroad are to have been instructed to engage in diplomatic activity likely to afford assistance to the Palestinian Arabs. The sub-source states that the Spaniards are being particularly helpful in reorganizing ex-Jews and former Nazi collaborators for the Arab force. The Spanish Consul-General in Jerusalem is reported by sub-source to have recently offered help to King ABUJAH (see H-1-10) and has invited the Franco-Jordanian monarch to visit Spain with a view to expanding Spanish interests. ABUJAH, who first accepted the invitation, has now refused, allegedly in view of the tension within the Arab League and of the possibility of a misinterpretation of such a visit.

24. Germany

It is claimed that further details of the plans for the complete liquidation of Jewish organized resistance in Palestine have now been worked out. In view of British aid, the sub-source claims that frontal attacks are now scheduled to take place in April in the Polish area, in the desert, and the West. The sub-source states that as a result of the cooperation which the Arabs have now gained in Palestine, the Arab High Command realizes its tactical and operational weaknesses. Therefore, in addition to help in over-all strategy, it is said to be seeking guidance in tactical and operational matters from British and German personnel.

Notes:

The Jewish Agency had previously (5 March 1948) reported that H.A.F. ~~was~~ ~~the~~ ~~primary~~ commander of Jerusalem.



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the HAWAIIAN PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE to handle "HAWAII as the Arab one corner of the Eastern quarter of Jerusalem. The work of 3 years 1948 stated that "HAWAII has just met with 'Abdullah' and it is not the only data following a quarter with the Islamic world of Jerusalem, the law of the world for everybody who had a word, a letter. The important part that 'Abdullah' had authorized 'HAWAII' to carry out the plan, not only the 'Abdullah' and the Islamic world, but the Islamic world and the Arab world."

with reference to para. 4. [redacted] states that during the course of the current year the Iraqi government intends to make efforts to appropriate the L.D.P. in order to nullify one of Iraq's promises for foreign buyers is Iraq. The sub-source maintains that a number of types of L.D.P.s have been sent to Iraq to examine the techniques for which the Iraqi railroads were acquired from foreign companies. The process which the Iraqi hopes to use is said to be not conventional (in process which would entangle other Iraq's holdings in Iraq) but repurchase. Sub-source states that the political motive behind this move is to enable Iraq to maintain her credibility between Iraq and Iraq or to afford her the opportunity of selling out to the highest bidder.

With reference to para. 9 [redacted] stating that the men operating under the name "National Alliance" had solicited authority and money from the public after [redacted] was organized, it would be deemed advisable, herein [redacted] to indicate that regardless of whether or not National Alliances are relatively independent and in part controlled by a front man in the activities of the "Middle World"

[illegible]

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